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## General Notes.

### ORIGINAL WAW IN ל"ה VERBS.

It is a familiar fact that in Arabic and Ethiopic the ל"ה verbs of the Hebrew appear in their earlier form as ו"י and ו"י verbs. Even in these languages, however, they are weak verbs, for ו and י undergo various changes. In Ethiopic the two classes of verbs are entirely distinct, but in Arabic the tendency of ו to pass over into ع has already begun to manifest itself, as is seen uniformly in the derived stems, and in some forms of the simple stem. In Hebrew this tendency has gone much farther, so that usually ו has taken the place of ו, and verbs originally ו"י are treated entirely like those ו"י. It is well known, however, that there are some traces of original ו in both verbs and nouns from ל"ה roots. It seems to the writer that some other cases of this kind may be added to those ordinarily recognized.

Brief reference may be made to such traces of this use as are familiar. ו is retained as a consonant in a few ל"ה verbs, as in part of the inflection of שָׁלַח, in the Hithpāl forms of שָׁחַח, etc. In three verbs, עָשָׂה, צָפַח, and נָטַח, occur forms of the Qāl passive participle with ו either as a consonant or contracted, such as צָפּוּ, עָשׂוּם (K.), נָטוּם (K.), see Ges.-K., § 75v. ו is also retained as a consonant in several nouns, such as עֲרֹה, עֲנֹ, etc. It also appears in some nouns in the ending ו, probably from contraction with ו, such as שָׁחַח, בָּחַח, etc.

In most of the forms already mentioned, at any rate, the corresponding root in the Arabic has و. Whether this is always so or not need not be discussed at this point, a few forms from ו"י roots, made from the analogy of the ו"י verbs, would not affect the argument. The fact remains that in the aggregate considerable traces are found in Hebrew of the original ו in ל"ה verbs. There is, then, no inherent improbability that there might be other cases of the same kind. Two classes of forms may be suggested which seem to the writer to show such traces.

One class of such forms is the infinitive construct of ל"ה verbs, קָטוּחַ. The usual explanations of ו here are entirely inadequate. According to the explanation now suggested, the form comes from the contraction of קָטוּחַ. In favor of this form as the original, it may be noted that the vowel of the second radical, ו, is thus the same as in the imperfect and imperative of these verbs, according to the view of most scholars. It may also be noted that the feminine ending when added to an infinitive is often simply in the form of ת. It should further be

observed that in the form קטות the Hölēm is ordinarily written fully, which is much more common when it comes from contraction than from obscuration.

In the perfect of verbs with original י, such forms as קטות, contracted from קטות, would be expected, instead of the usual form קטית, contracted from קטית. No such form with the vowel י occurs. There are perfects, however, with a י before the affix, the origin of which has been difficult of explanation. "Eine befriedigende Erklärung dieser Trennungsvokale ist noch nicht gelungen."<sup>1</sup> These are the perfects of the ע"ע verb in all the stems, and of the ע"י verb in the Niph'al and Hiph'il. It is probable, as many have maintained, that the י found in the imperfects and imperatives of the same verbs is from the analogy of the ל"ל verbs. The writer would suggest that this י is also to be so regarded, being taken not from the ל"ל verb, but from the י"י. It need occasion no surprise that the analogous formation has remained, while the original one has been lost. This is sufficiently natural when formations by analogy are so common as they are in Hebrew, and, in fact, in all the Semitic languages.

It is probable that the י"י forms had become few when the vowel was taken by the ע"ע and ע"י verbs. For the addition of this vowel in these verbs in the Hebrew is evidently a late formation, as is indicated by the fact that there are few if any similar forms in the other Semitic languages. That a relatively infrequent formation should be taken by one occurring more frequently has numerous parallels. "Indessen geschieht es nicht so selten, dass gerade die wenigen Formen über die zahlreicheren siegen: so haben vor Suffix und in konstruktiver Stellung im Hebräischen und Aramäischen die Dualformen über die Pluralformen und der Plur. sanus über den Plur. fractus beim Substantiv gesiegt, obwohl der letztere im genannten Dialekt, wie thatsächlich im Südsemitischen, einmal wahrscheinlich weit zahlreicher als der erstere war."<sup>2</sup>

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May 15, 1904.

### SISINNU = "HORSEBIRD" = OSTRICH.

In III R. 15, I, 15, we have reference to the si-si-in-ni bird; the king compares his onset to the rush of this great bird. For the reading si-si-in-ni as against si-er-in-ni (Delitzsch), cf. Robert Francis Harper (Dissertation), 1888, and Haupt in BAS., I, 167, where Harper's reading si-si-in-ni is confirmed by both Haupt and Pinches. Haupt has conjectured that this form is a derivative from sisu, "horse;" si-si-in-nu = sisēnu = sisānu: we are consequently to read it "horse-bird." There is reason to suspect the conjecture is well-founded. In

<sup>1</sup> Ges.-K., § 67d, n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Lindberg, *Vergleichende Grammatik der semitischen Sprachen*, S. 134, n. 1.